General Assembly

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Agenda item 95 (*c*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/56/558/Add.3)*]

56/182. Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in coordinating the activities of the United Nations system in the area of science and technology for development,

Cognizant of the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the secretariat responsible for the substantive servicing of the Commission,

Bearing in mind the cross-cutting nature of science and technology within the United Nations system and the need, inter alia, for effective policy guidance and better coordination,

Recognizing the importance of establishing and strengthening partnership and networking among the public and private sectors and academic institutions of all countries to build, transfer and strengthen the technological capabilities and skills needed, in particular for developing countries,

Stressing that the pace of globalization is influenced in large measure by the development of science and technology and that developing countries and countries with economies in transition need to become well equipped, inter alia, through international assistance, with the knowledge of science and technology and the practical skills and institutional structures associated with technology management, which are among the essential tools for enabling them to benefit from the opportunities offered by globalization and avoid the risk of marginalization in the process of globalization,

Recognizing the need to address the obstacles faced by developing countries in accessing technologies, while taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights and the special needs of developing countries,

Recognizing also that information and communication technologies are among the critical determinants for creating a global knowledge-based economy, accelerating growth, increasing competitiveness, promoting sustainable development, eradicating poverty and facilitating the effective integration of all countries into the global economy,

Recognizing further the need for dissemination of research knowledge, technologies and expertise in the field of biotechnology, in particular in the areas of agriculture, pharmaceuticals and health care, that could benefit mankind,

Welcoming the establishment of the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force, which will provide overall leadership in the United Nations role in helping to formulate strategies for the development of information and communication technologies, and under whose initiative the United Nations will lend a truly global dimension to efforts to bridge the global digital divide, foster digital opportunity and thus firmly put information and communication technologies in the service of development for all, while bearing in mind the power of information and communication technologies for advancing the internationally agreed development goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the coordinating role of the Commission in support of efforts by developing countries to benefit from science and technology,[2]

1. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council to consider, no later than at its substantive session of 2002, ways and means to strengthen the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, inter alia, through increasing the frequency of its meetings, including their annualization, and through the implementation of the recommendations set out in the report of the Secretary-General,[2] while taking its mandate and budgetary constraints into consideration, and in that regard takes note of the recommendation of the Commission to the Council that the Commission should meet annually;[3]

2. *Also invites* the Economic and Social Council to consider favourably the request of the Commission to establish a working group, to meet during the regular sessions of the Commission, for the purpose of evaluating the work of the Commission, with a view to strengthening the role of the Commission in the United Nations system in the area of science and technology for development and increasing its effectiveness;

3. *Stresses* the importance of facilitating access to and transfer of knowledge and technology on concessional, preferential and favourable terms to the developing countries, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights and the special needs of developing countries, with the objective of enhancing their technological capacities, capabilities, productivity and competitiveness in the world market;

4. *Also stresses* the need for all Governments to ensure the necessary conditions, including the creation of transparent legal and regulatory frameworks, to facilitate the acquisition and development of technology, to enhance innovation capacity, to improve the absorptive capacity of local enterprises and to build up supply capabilities;

5. *Further stresses* the importance of identifying and tackling barriers to and unjustifiable restrictions on the transfer of technologies, in particular to developing countries, inter alia, with a view to addressing such constraints while

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] A/56/96-E/2001/87.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 11* (E/2001/31), chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III, para. 1.

creating specific incentives for the transfer of technologies, including new and innovative ones;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations system to take advantage of the coordinating role and expertise of the Commission in the area of science and technology for development, where possible, in the follow-up to and preparation for major international conferences and summits;

7. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the Commission and its secretariat within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development are provided with the necessary resources to enable it to better carry out its mandate;

8. *Takes note* of the proposal of the Commission for a study regarding the feasibility of establishing an international mechanism for supporting and enhancing research and development within the developing countries and in areas critical to the developing countries, especially in the fields of health, education and agriculture;[4]

9. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the international community to strengthen South-South cooperation initiatives, as well as subregional and regional cooperation, in the field of science and technology;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its fifty-eighth session, a report on the impact of new biotechnologies, with particular attention to sustainable development, including food security, health and economic productivity, with the inclusion of proposals on the aspects of the transfer of such technologies, in particular to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, while taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights and the special needs of developing countries, as well as on addressing constraints on the adequate utilization of such technologies.

90th plenary meeting
21 December 2001

[4] Ibid., para. 3.